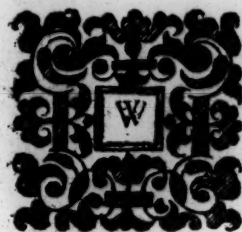




A Declaration of the General Convention of Ireland.



HEREAS the high extremities of *Ireland* necessarily requiring it, this General Convention is assembled to consider of and apply remedies to redeem the Nation from those extremities; And whereas it is visible to all the Kingdomes and Nations throughout Christendom, and most lamentably felt by the three Nations of *England*, *Ireland* and *Scotland*, that the horrid violence offered to the authority and dignity of the Parliament of *England* in *December* 1648. did let in all the miseries and calamities in Church and State, which have ever since afflicted and distracted these Nations, and have plunged them in a gulf of sorrows and confusion, under which they have long suffered, and that not without secret design's and great endeavors utterly to extinguish the true Reformed Protestant Religion, to eradicate Parliaments, to subvert the fundamental Laws of the Land, to take away the Rights, Libertyes, Freedom and Propertyes of the people, and to introduce an Arbitrary and Tyrannical Government over these Nations.

And whereas the just consideration of those sad confusions brought upon these Nations, moved the Council of Officers of the Army in *Ireland*, by their Declaration Dated the sixteenth day of *February* 1659. to Declare for a Full and Free Parliament in *England*, wherein they have since had the General concurrence of all the Army in *Ireland*, This General Convention doth not onely approve of the said Declaration of the Council of Officers of the Army, but doth also Declare that this Nation is resolved (by the blessing of God,) to joyn with the said Council of Officers and Army in *Ireland*, and with their brethren in *England* and *Scotland*, who have joyned or shall joyn, for the accomplishment of the good and publick ends therein expressed, and to contribute cheerfully and readily to the charges requisite thereunto by all good and Lawful ways, hoping by the mercy of God to be no less prosperous in this undertaking then the cause is just.

And whereas (after the said Declaration of the Council of Officers of the Army in *Ireland*, and since the assembling of this Convention,) there came advertisement of the sitting of the late excluded Members at *Westminster*, for which this General Convention, doth most humbly and thankfully acknowledg the great and extraordinary Providence of God, and his Mercyes therein to these Nations; And doth Declare that this Nation doth Resolve (by the blessing of God) constantly to adhere to the present Parliament, and future Parliaments of *England* in the preservation of them in Fulness and Freedom.

And this Convention doth also Declare and assert, that as for several hundreds of years last past, by the Laws and laudable Custom & constitution of this Nation, Parliaments have been usually held in *Ireland*, and that in those Parliaments Laws have been Enacted, and Laws repealed, and Subsidies granted, as the publick occasions required, So that Right of having Parliaments held in *Ireland*, is still justly and Lawfully due and belonging to *Ireland*, and that the Parliament of *England* never charged *Ireland* in any Age with any Subsidies, or other publick Taxes or Assesments, until after the violence offered to the Parliament of *England* in *December* 1648. since which time, they who Invaded the Rights of the Parliaments of *England*, Invaded also the Rights of the Parliament of *Ireland*, by imposing Taxes and Assesments upon *Ireland*.

And because some of those who have been instrumental in drawing on and increasing the Miseries, Calamities, and Desolations of these Nations, particularly, the late Lt. Gen. *Edmond Ludlow*, Col. *John Jones*, *Miles Corbet* Esq; and Col. *Matthew Thomlinson*, and others of turbulent spirits, have laboured, and do labour to asperse this Nation falsely and scandalously, as if the People of *Ireland* did by these their necessitated proceedings intend to divide or sepearate from *England*; Therefore this Convention for vindicating this Nation from that fowl and unjust calumny and aspersion, and for satisfaction aswel of our brethren in *England*, as of all the World, doth farther Declare, That the People of *Ireland*, are so far from designing or intending to divide or sepearate from *England*, as that they conclude such a Division or Separation would be absolutely destructive to the Nation, and is that, then which there is nothing that *Ireland* more abhorres, they being Generally bone of their bone, and flesh of their flesh, and therefore that they do Resolve (by the Mercy of God) for ever to adhere to *England*, as that Nation which hath derived to *Ireland* such and so great Comforts, Benefits and Advantages, and all in so high a degree, as the welfare and Interests of *England* and *Ireland* are so inseperably interwoven as the good or evil of either, must necessarily become common to both.

And this Convention doth also Declare, That they will use their best endeavor, that a Pious, Learned and orthodox Preaching Ministry of the Gospel and no other, may be setled throughout *Ireland*, and that onely in a Parochial way, and encouraged and supported by Tythes and other Legal maintenance, and Universities and Schools of Learning countenanced and cherished; And that all Arrears of the Army, aswel those due to such as have been Officers or Soldiers of the Army of *Ireland* before the fifth day of *June* 1649. as those since, may be satisfied; And that all the Estates and Interests of all Adventurers, their Heirs and Assign's, who by virtue of the Act of 17. *Carol.* for satisfaction of Adventurers, have had forfeited Lands assigned to them by Lot, and possessed by them accordingly, may be confirmed to them; and that care be had for the just satisfaction of Adventurers, who have not yet had satisfaction pursuant to the said Act; and that such Officers and Soldiers as are or have been of the Army in *Ireland*, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assign's, and have had forfeited Lands ordered or set forth unto them, and possessed by them accordingly, may have the same confirmed to them.

And this General Convention having discharged their duty herein to God, and to their Countrey, do in the greatest humility Implore Almighty God so to guide and dispose all things as may tend to the Glory of his Name, the advancement of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, and the Unity, Peace and Tranquility of the three Nations of *England*, *Ireland* and *Scotland*. Dated at *Dublin* the 8. of *March* 1659.

The 12. of *March* 1659.

Ordered by the General Convention of *Ireland* that this Declaration be forthwith Printed and Published.



Mat. Barry, Clerk of the General Convention of *Ireland*.

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